

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of a purified refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor which comprises subjecting an inclusion body of a bone morphogenetic factor to the following steps a) - c) in order, thereby producing the refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor;
  - a) introducing a polynucleotide encoding a bone morphogenetic factor into a bacterium, expressing said bone morphogenetic factor in the form of an inclusion body, recovering said inclusion body and treating the recovered inclusion body with a denaturing agent to obtain a solubilized monomer,
  - b) treating the solubilized monomer directly with a refolding solution to obtain a refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor,
  - c) subjecting the refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor to purification.
2. (Original) The process for the production according to claim 1, wherein said bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the refolding solution has a final concentration of the denaturing agent between 1 M and 4 M.
4. (Original) The process for the production according to claim 1, wherein said refolding solution comprises cysteine or salt thereof, bone morphogenetic factor at a final concentration above 1.0 *mg/mL*, sodium chloride at a final concentration of 0.1 to 1.5 M, and cholic acid or its derivatives at a final concentration of 5 to 100 mM and has a pH in the range of 8 - 10.
5. (Original) The process for the production according to claim 4, wherein said refolding solution is further comprises a compound having a guanidino group or the salt thereof.
6. (Original) The process for the production according to claim 1, wherein said bone morphogenetic factor is a bone morphogenetic factor selected from the group consisting of MP52, BMP-2, BMP-4, BMP-6, BMP-7, BMP-12 and BMP-13.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor is purified by ultrafiltration, isoelectric precipitation and reverse phase chromatography.
8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the inclusion body is washed with a detergent or denaturing agent prior to solubilization of the bone morphogenetic factor.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (New) A process for the preparation of a purified refolded dimeric bone morphogenetic factor the process comprising the steps of:
  - a) introducing a polynucleotide encoding a bone morphogenetic factor into a bacterium, expressing said bone morphogenetic factor in the form of an inclusion body, recovering said inclusion body and treating the recovered inclusion body with a denaturing agent to obtain a solubilized monomer,

- b) treating the solubilized monomer without purification directly with a refolding solution in a final protein concentration above 1 mg/ml to obtain a refolded dimeric bone morphogenetic factor,
  - c) subjecting the refolded dimeric bone morphogenetic factor to purification.
12. (New) A method for inducing multifunctional growth factor activity in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof a sufficient amount of the refolded monomeric bone morphogenetic factor produced by the process of claim 1 to induce said activity.
13. (New) A method for inducing multifunctional growth factor activity in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal in need thereof a sufficient amount of the refolded dimeric bone morphogenetic factor produced by the process of claim 11 to induce said activity.
14. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein said multifunctional growth factor activity is useful for applications in promoting angiogenesis, for treating neuronal diseases, in periodontal and dental applications, for treating connective tissue such as tendon and

ligament, and skin-related disorders such as wound healing or hair growth disorders as well as for inducing cartilage and bone morphogenesis.

15. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said multifunctional growth factor activity is useful for applications in promoting angiogenesis, for treating neuronal diseases, in periodontal and dental applications, for treating connective tissue such as tendon and ligament, and skin-related disorders such as wound healing of hair growth disorders as well as for inducing cartilage and bone morphogenesis.